THE TEXT TRADITION OF THE AESOPIC FABLES BELONGING TO THE SO-CALLED AUGUSTANA RECENSION

BY

CLARENCE BENJAMIN HALE

A. B., Wheaton College, 1928

A. M., University of Illinois, 1929

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLASSICS IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, 1941

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Anonymous prose fables ascribed to Aesop have come down to us in three principal recensions. Of these three the oldest, most extensive, and therefore presumably the most important is the so-called Augustana recension, named from one of its principal MSS. We shall call this group Class I. It is the basis in large part for the two recensions which followed it, namely Classes II and III. There is also a subrecension of Class I, which we shall designate as Ia. This subclass is characterized by stylistic changes and by additions from material outside of Class I. In order to get at the oldest form of the prose text ascribed to Aesop, it is necessary to study the MSS of Class I. These are:

GPb

G	Manuscript 397 in the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
Pb	Monacensis 564

λ

Ca	Laurentianus conv. soppr. 627
Pg	Vaticanus 695
Mb	Vaticanus 777

PaPc

Pa	Parisinus suppl. 690
Pc	Parisinus 365

Ia

H	Harleianus 5543
Me	Ambrosianus 481
Mf	Parisinus 126
Mj	Parisinus 2900
Pf	Palatinus 156
Ph	Vaticanus 1702

Minor MSS

Ma	Palatinus 195
Mo	Barberinus 47
Pd	Parisinus 1685
Pe	Parisinus 1788
Pi	Vaticanus 112

Heretofore certain obvious relationships have been observed. In this study I have examined the conclusions and suggestions of other scholars, confirming some, refuting others, and in general extending somewhat our knowledge of the MSS in I and Ia. GPb is the oldest and for the most part the best tradition known to us. Hausrath, although right in thinking that λ is very old, is hardly justified in discarding G and Pb

as the primary witnesses to the ancient text, especially since it contains far more fables than λ. On the other hand, Chambry overestimated the value of Pa; as also did Perry in assuming it as a source for Ia, whereas the reverse is the fact, as Perry now recognizes. The greatest contribution of this study is the further definition of the inner relations of Ia. GPb's relation to Ia also has been made clearer. In addition to this, evidence is presented that the λ tradition is quite old, antedating the archetype of GPB. Comparatively little advance, however, has been made in our understanding Pd, Pe, Pi, and MaMo. How far the variety of expression found in these MSS is due to revision by their scribes or to kinship with families of lost MSS, it is now impossble to determine, but it is certain that their tradition is very much mixed and has undergone so many arbitrary alterations as to defy satisfactory analysis.

In general this illustrates how the looseness of tradition in popular literature hampers attempts to locate sources exactly. Where the tradition has been strictly followed, a statistical analysis of agreements and disagreements yields solid results. But in Aesop such a procedure is generally useless, since the variants are too complex and too numerous and there has been too much arbitrary alteration of the text. At most, tentative results are the best that can be attained for much of the material. Still such results in the case of Ia and in the case of the relations of G, Pb, and λ, based upon scattered but clear-cut evidence, are more than we have had hitherto and are, therefore, a distinct advance, sufficiently so to warrant a provisional stemma.

Photographs were used for G, Pa, Pb, Pc, Pd, Pf, Pg, Ph, Ma, Mb, Mo, V, and H. Pe was available in Miller's *Notice*. Pi, Me, Mf, and Mj were checked through Chambry's apparatus. Ca was consulted by means of de Furia's edition. In the collations of Pa and Pb, Sternbach and Schneider were occasionally helpful.

From these materials collations of all Class I and Ia fables were made on large sheets of bristol-board. Information culled from the multitude of various readings registered on these sheets formed the basis for my conclusions.

The MSS of Class I are all derived in the main from a common ancient archetype, in spite of the fact that many of them, singly or in groups, have taken on a small number of accretions from other ancient or medieval editions and from the Babrian tradition. One quite obvious indication that these MSS come from a common source is seen in the large number of fables that they share in common in essentially the same order. Besides this, there are a number of passages where all the MSS that contain the fable seem to be corrupt.

The MSS of Class I. viewed in the light of their fable content and their variant readings throughout, fall obviously into at least three distinct groups represented respectively by GPb, PgMbCa, and PfPhHVMeMfMj. The latter group for convenience may be called Ia,

since it is a modified derivative of the archetype represented by the other two groups, both in respect to the text and to the fables which it has drawn from an unknown ancient source or sources. The archetype represented by the second group is designated as λ. This is much closer textually to GPb than is Ia, although the number of its fables is considerably less than the number in GPb, and it has four or five fables that are not in GPb. Pa and Pc are also very important MSS and closely related in most of their text and contents to GPb. In large measure they form a separate group, but are closer to GPb and λ than to Ia although they have interpolated from Ia as we have shown.

On the whole, GPb (which dates from the 10th century or earlier) is the oldest, best, and most complete tradition which we have. This, in the main, must be the basis of any edition of the Augustana fables, in as far as any one group can be used as a basis. There has been some contamination from the Babrian tradition and from Ia. In such places, of course, the editor must appeal to some other tradition than GPb if possible.

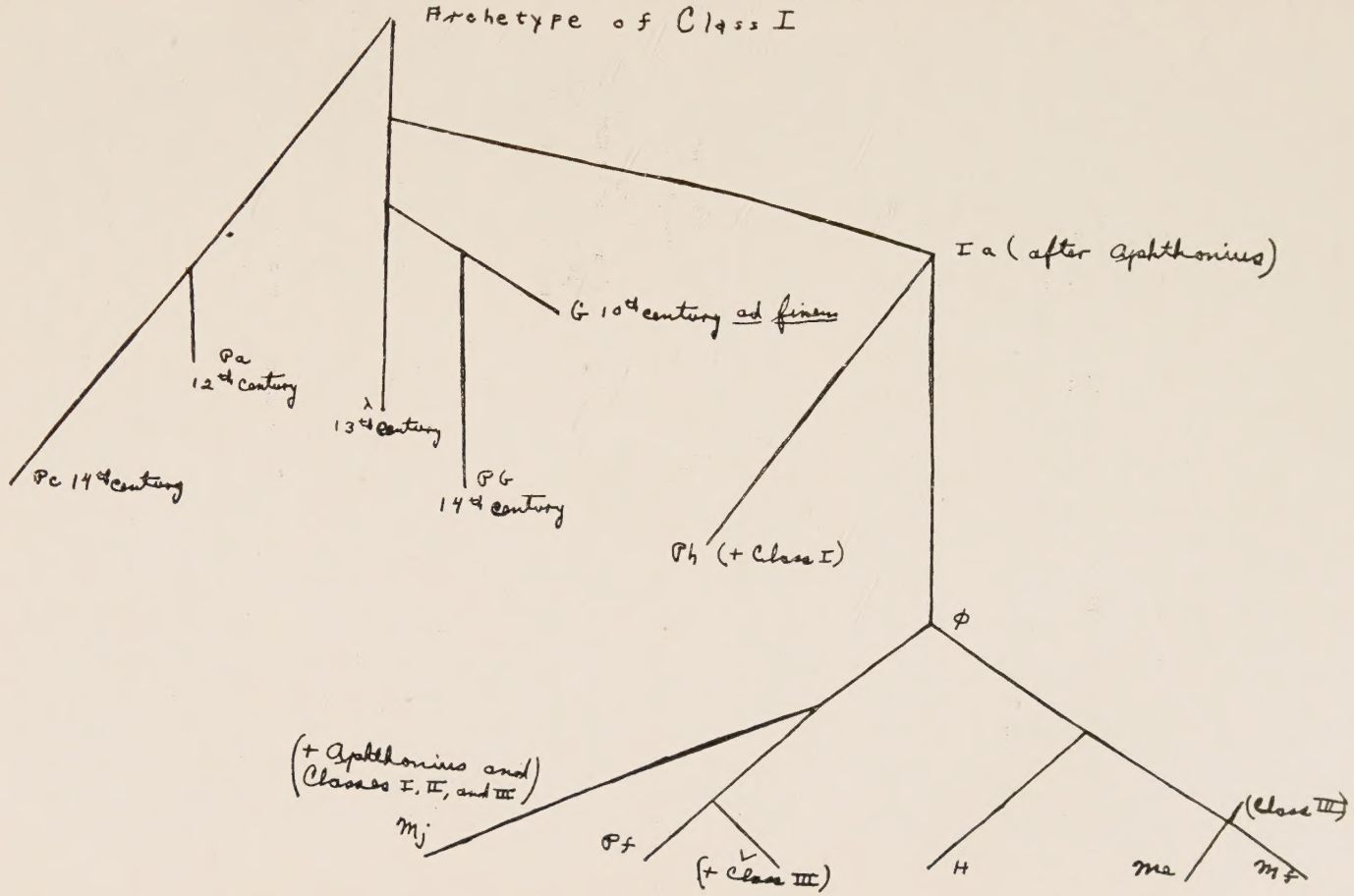
Next to GPb in value stands λ. This lost MS of the 13th or possibly the late 12th century, is represented in the fables by Pg, Mb, and Ca, or by any two of these three MSS. The tradition reaches far back of λ itself and antedates GPb, though not the GPb tradition. Too incomplete to serve as a basis for restoring the Class I fables, nevertheless λ is valuable for checking doubtful readings in GPb.

Ia goes back ultimately to an archetype written at some time between the 4th century (Aphthonius) and the 10th (at any rate earlier than PaPc because PaPc has interpolated from Ia.) This is a subrecension of Class I with stylistic changes and with material drawn from other sources, partly Babrian and partly unknown, and is influenced to some degree by Aphthonius. As a witness to the Class I text, Ia is varying and should be appealed to only when GPB, λ, and PaPc fail to settle the problem.

PaPc, although independent of and parallel to GPb, is drawn for the most part from a source close to G and to some representative of the Babrian tradition, with contaminations from Ia in scattered places. In agreement with G or Pb or with λ, this tradition is valuable, but its peculiar readings have no decisive authority.

The minor MSS (Ma, Mo, Pi, Pd, and Pe) contribute practically nothing to our knowledge of Class I. Here and there we have come across traces of other traditions which seem to have been current, but which can no longer be defined. This was noted particularly in our consideration of MaMo, Pe, Mon. 525, and Ia.

The relationships between the MSS as nearly as we can determine them are mainly as shown in the accompanying stemma.


Archetype of Class I
I a (after Apathonicus)
G 10th century ad finem
Pa
12th century
λ
13th century
Pc 14th century
PG
14th century
Ph (+ Class I)
φ
(+ Apathonicus and Classes I, II, and III)
Mj
Pf
(+ Class III)
H
Ma
(Class III)
Mf

VITA

Clarence Benjamin Hale was born in Lincoln, Vermont, on December 25, 1905. His preliminary education was received in the public school of Coventry and Cabot, Vermont. He attended Pratt High School, Essex, Connecticut, and Mount Hermon School, Mount Hermon, Massachusetts, graduating from the latter institution in July, 1924. He did his college work at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, and was granted the A. B. degree in June, 1928. In the fall of the same year he entered the University of Illinois on a scholarship appointment, receiving the A. M. degree in June, 1929. For the last twelve years he has been a member of the faculty of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. From 1931 through 1933 he was registered as a part-time graduate student at the University of Chicago. During the first semester in 1934 and again during the second semester in 1938 he was allowed leave of absence from Wheaton College for graduate study at the University of Illinois, completing the residence requirement for the Ph. D. degree during the summer session of 1938. In his graduate work he has studied with Professors W. A. Oldfather, H. V. Canter, B. E. Perry, and J. W. Swain, to all of whom for their helpful and sympathetic instruction he welcomes this opportunity of expressing his grateful appreciation.

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